



BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; Initial Certification

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (The Committee) will submit the collections of information listed below to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. This notice solicits comments on these collections of information.

DATES: Submit your written comments on the information collection on or before May 7, 2012

ADDRESSES: Mail your comments on the requirement to Lou Bartalot, Director Compliance and Review, Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 1421 Jefferson Davis Highway, Jefferson Plaza 2, Suite 10800, Arlington, VA, 22202-3259; fax (703) 603-0655; or e-mail rulecomments@abilityone.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the applicable forms or explanatory material, contact Edward Yang at information in above paragraph.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). The Committee plans to submit a request to OMB to renew its approval of the collections of information concerning annual certification of nonprofit agencies serving people who are blind or who have other significant disabilities to participate in the AbilityOne Program. The Committee is requesting a 3-year term of approval for these information collection activities.

Federal agencies may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for these collections of information are 3037-0002 and 3037-0001.

The JWOD Act of 1971 (41 U.S.C. Chapter 85) is the authorizing legislation for the AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne Program creates jobs and training opportunities for people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. Its primary means of doing so is by requiring Government agencies to purchase selected products and services from nonprofit agencies

employing such individuals. The AbilityOne Program is administered by the Committee. Two national, independent organizations, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH, help State and private nonprofit agencies participate in the AbilityOne Program.

The implementing regulations for the JWOD Act, which are located at 41 CFR Chapter 51, provide the requirements, procedures, and standards for the AbilityOne Program. Section 51-4.3 of the regulations sets forth the standards that a nonprofit agency must meet to maintain qualification for participation in the AbilityOne Program. Under this section of the regulations, a nonprofit agency that wants to continue to participate in the AbilityOne Program must submit a completed copy of the appropriate Annual Certification form (Committee Form 403 or 404). This documentation helps the Committee determine whether the applicant nonprofit agency is meeting the requirements of the AbilityOne Program.

This information collection renewal request seeks approval for the Committee to continue to collect the information required under 41 CFR 51-4.3 of the regulations so that the Committee can continue to verify the appropriateness of nonprofit agencies that would like to participate in the JWOD Program. Both forms have added three new questions added concerning the number of veterans employed at the agencies doing direct labor and the wages paid to veterans working on AbilityOne projects and have revised the language at the bottom of the certification section.

Title: Annual Certification—Qualified Nonprofit Agency Serving People Who Are Blind, 41 CFR 51-4.3.

OMB Control Number: 3037-0001.

Form Number: Committee Form 403.

Description of Respondents: Nonprofit agencies serving people who are blind that participate in the JWOD Program.

Annual Number of Respondents: About 70 nonprofit agencies serving people who are blind will annually request to be verified for participation in the AbilityOne Program.

Total Annual Burden Hours: Burden is estimated to average 6 hour per respondent. Total annual burden is 420 hours. Note: this burden estimate is only for the reporting of information a separate burden estimate exists for the recordkeeping requirement.

Title: Initial Certification—Qualified Nonprofit Agency Serving People Who Are Severely Disabled, 41 CFR 51-4.3.

OMB Control Number: 3037-0002.

Form Number: Committee Form 404.

Description of Respondents: Nonprofit agencies serving people who are severely disabled that participate in the JWOD Program.

Annual Number of Respondents: About 550 nonprofit agencies serving people who are severely disabled will annually request to be verified for participation in the JWOD Program.

Total Annual Burden Hours: Burden is estimated to average 6 hour per respondent. Total annual burden is 3,300 hours. Note: this burden estimate is only for the reporting of information a separate burden estimate exists for the recordkeeping requirement.

We invite comments concerning this renewal on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of our agency's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Barry S. Lineback
Director, Business Operations

[FR Doc. 2012-5452 Filed 03/06/2012 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 03/07/2012]